



Photo by Nick Herman
BIG DAY — Laurens Academy's Ruthie Moore celebrates with her family, teammates and coaches after signing to play basketball and attend Covenant College in Georgia.

LA's Moore joins brothers at Covenant

By Nick Herman
 Sports Editor

SCISA's Miss Basketball could've gone to almost any school she wanted, but Laurens Academy's Ruthie Moore had her heart set for a long time to follow the path of her brothers, Joshua and Noah.

Moore signed with Covenant College Tuesday inside the Laurens Academy gym, putting the finishing touch on a high school career that makes her one of the most decorated and successful players in program history.

"It's an amazing day to me. I'm so proud of Ruthie, not just because of her basketball accomplishments, but because of what's happened — the person she is," LA Head Coach Jason Marlett said. "She's an amazing person. She's an elite student, a great teammate. She's been a joy to coach."

Moore received the SCISA Miss Basketball award for this past season, the highest honor in private school basketball, and was also a three-time Region 2-A Player of the Year and the 2018 SCISA Player of the Year (all classes). She was named to the all-state team three times, made the all-tournament team for the Lowe's Roundball Classic twice, and was picked as the HSSR Girls' Player of the Year last year (for all classes) and finished her career as Laurens Academy's all-time leading scorer with 2,242 points.

She wrapped her high school career with an appearance in the SCISA-GISA Game this year, and was selected for the SCISA North-South Game the previous three years.

During her time with the Crusaders, Moore helped lead the team to three straight undefeated seasons in region play, including three tournament titles. The Crusaders also advanced to the SCISA Class A Championship Game three years in a row, winning the last two titles in succession. Over her four-year career, Moore and the Crusaders posted a record of 106-17.

This season Moore averaged 18.5 points per game (22.6 in region games), 7 rebounds and 5 assists, and had an assist-to-turnover ratio of 3 to 1. Her scoring is a testament to urging she received during her sophomore year from the LA coaches, who encouraged her to shoot and attack the basket more frequently than she had.

"Once I started doing that, I realized I could score a lot more than I thought I could," Moore said.

Considering all her accomplishments and accolades, it's no

surprise, Marlett said, that Moore had interest from much bigger schools than Covenant, including Division I programs asking about her freshman year and Division II programs constantly inquiring about her. In the end the pull of following her brothers to the Lookout Mountain, Ga., campus proved too much to deny.

"She's choosing to go to a place where she fits and she feels a legacy, and she feels will be the best fit for her. That takes a whole other level of wisdom," Marlett said.

Moore said she simply felt comfortable with Covenant's campus, and that she wasn't looking to go anywhere else when she was deciding on her collegiate path. It is a path one of her brothers, Joshua, is currently traveling as he attends Covenant. Her twin brother, Noah (also a senior at LA) is headed to Covenant next year too.

"It will help a lot because I've always had a lot of family around me," Moore said. "It's a lot of fun having them with me, especially in college."

Covenant coaches have told Moore that she has to work on getting stronger and quicker as she tries to handle playing at the college level. As for her education, Moore has not declared a major.

Success in Seattle

PC men notch history tourney victory in CIT

By Nick Herman
 Sports Editor

The Presbyterian College men's basketball team continued its amazing 2018-19 season Wednesday night in the Pacific Northwest as clutch shooting and key defensive stops lifted the Blue Hose to victory in their first ever Division I postseason tournament game.

Cory Hightower scored a season-best 18 points and hauled down 10 boards, Davon Bell had 17 points and eight assists, and Adam Flagler hit two clutch free throws with 4 seconds to go as the Blue Hose advanced to the second round of the Collegeinsider.com Tournament with a 73-68 victory over the Seattle Redhawks. The victory moves PC to 19-15 overall, furthering its single-season record for victories in a Division I campaign.

Presbyterian will visit Robert Morris Sunday at 1 p.m., in the second round of the tournament. A victory in that game would send the Blue Hose into the quarterfinals, which will be played later this month. The Colonials are currently 18-16.

Presbyterian led 34-31 at the half and then shot 56 percent in the second half. Settle, which turned the ball over 13 times and took it away only six times, shot 41.7 percent for the game and was held to 6 of 18 from 3-



Photo Courtesy PC Athletics
ONE DOWN — Cory Hightower and the Presbyterian College men's basketball team had a successful trip across the country Wednesday night, defeating Seattle in the first round of the CIT. PC won the game, 73-68.

point range. Terrell Brown led Seattle with 19 points and 10 boards while Riley Grigsby added 12 points and Matej Kavas added 11 points.

Brown's opening layup to the second half cut the margin to 34-33, but Flagler's 3-pointer extended the lead back out to four. After PC pushed the lead to 51-41 with 12 minutes, 48 seconds left on a 3-pointer from Chris Martin, the Redhawks rallied back and took the lead on a Myles Carter layup with less than 7 minutes to go. PC's Hightower and

Romeo Crouch answered the host's challenge with layups, and Crouch added a free throw to his layup, completing a 3-point play and putting PC up 62-58.

Seattle pulled within one, 65-64, on a layup by Grigsby around the 4 minute mark, but baskets by Flagler and Hightower pushed the lead back to five points. Brown connected on two jumpers to pull Seattle back within one at 69-68, but Crouch's layup and Flagler's two free throws put the game on ice.

LDHS boys hope for good golf season

By Nick Herman
 Sports Editor

The Laurens Raiders boys' golf team has gone through plenty of change after last season, with half the roster gone for various reasons.

With the changes, Laurens Head Coach Jim Iacuone has a daunting task as he tries to reload the lineup, but he not totally void of talent with the new season underway.

Bailey Goode and Collin Harlan are back at the top of the lineup. The two players had become more consistent scorers for the Raiders entering the season, with Goode targeting a range of 41-45 strokes per nine holes, and Harlan with a range of 43-46 in his rounds. Harlan is hitting a little longer on his shots, which will help keep the score down if he can add accuracy to his distance.

Preston Mahon is back at No.

3 in the lineup after competing on the JV basketball team. The wrestling season, and the winter rains, have kept him from getting back into the flow, but he did shoot a 57 during a recent match with T.L. Hanna and Woodmont.

Jason Rogers is at No. 4 and is showing improvement as he looks to dial back on his shots and not try to kill the ball. Camden Carmen is at No. 5, also having not played much so far, while Mason Gibbs is in his first year and also is coming off being part of the wrestling team.

The region race will be very tough, with Wade Hampton and Hanna at the top of the list. Easley, Greenwood, J.L. Mann, Westside and Woodmont will all provide challenges as well, leaving Laurens in a tough spot as it tries to navigate its way through to the region championships in April.

Iacuone said he thought his team could do as good as sixth in

the region, and could see Goode and/or Harlan as potential individual qualifiers for Upper State. If the two can stay consistent in their scoring, such a goal is well within reach.

Roster: Camden Carmen, Mason Gibbs, Bailey Goode, Collin Harlan, Preston Mahon, Jason Rogers, Caden Cooley, Nick Cooley, Matthew Starling.

Laurens second (Tuesday): The Laurens Raiders took second place in a three-team meet with Wade Hampton and Westside. Wade Hampton shot 158 to beat Laurens by 15 shots, while Westside finished at 203.

Bailey Goode topped Laurens with a round of 37, followed by Collin Harlan (40), Jason Rogers (47) and Preston Mahon (49) to round out the Raiders' top four.

Editor's Note: The incorrect preview story ran in Wednesday's edition of The Laurens County Advertiser. We regret the error.

Laurens softball rallies, tips J.L. Mann

By Nick Herman
 Sports Editor

Leading 7-1 through the fourth inning, the Laurens Raiders' softball team appeared headed to a comfortable victory Tuesday over the visiting J.L. Mann Patriots.

Little did the team know it would be forced to rally after letting the entire lead slip away, but the Raiders did it with two runs in the bottom of the sixth to secure a 9-8 victory over the Patriots.

Scoring seven runs off the Raiders in the top of the fifth, the Patriots took the lead at 8-7, but Laurens rallied when Vanessa Harshaw's triple to right pushed across the eventual winning runs.

Cassidy Plaia, Kauree Munyan and Bre Posey each had two hits for the Raiders, while Michaela Smith and Harshaw each had two RBI.

Rachel Delio picked up the victory in the circle, giving up five earned runs on six hits and six walks, striking out six.

Clinton 13, Newberry 3, 5 innings (Tuesday): The Red Devils turned up the offense, blasting 16 hits against Newberry to win at home.

Kamryn Akins helped her own cause with two hits, including a triple, an RBI and a run scored out of the leadoff spot for Clinton while Mac Taylor had three hits and two runs scored. Nigeria Johnson had two hits and three RBI.

Akins picked up the victory in three perfect innings of work, striking out eight. Grayson Taylor went the final two innings, allowing one earned run on three hits and three walks.

out by Noah Moore.

LA pitcher Cal Robertson picked up the victory in three innings. Robertson gave up a run on four hits, walking one and striking out three.

Soccer

Clinton Girls 2, Newberry 0 (Tuesday): Madison Bagwell accounted for both Clinton goals, with Abby Collins picking up an assist on the second goal, and the Red Devils (5-3 overall, 2-1 Region 3-3A) picked up the victory.

Clinton Boys 2, Newberry 0 (Tuesday): Gavin Kiley broke through for Clinton's first goal midway through the first half and Patrick Nelson scored in the second half to ice the victory for Clinton.

Clinton Boys 2, Laurens 0 (Wednesday): J.P. Snelgrove and Luke Mann each scored goals in the second half to lead the Red Devils past the Raiders.

Tennis

Clinton 5, Union County 1 (Tuesday): Another region match, another region victory for the undefeated Red Devils as they rolled past the Yellow Jackets.

All five singles players won their matches for Clinton, dropping a combined four games in 10 contested sets. Ike Waldron (No. 1), Connor Donley (No. 2) and Anders Orr (No. 3) all won with matching 6-0, 6-0 scores.

J.L. Mann 7, Laurens 0 (Tuesday): The Patriots had too much for the Raiders to handle, dealing Laurens a shutout loss.

COLLEGE Softball

PC sweeps SCSU (Tuesday): Presbyterian went on the road, winning a pair from South Carolina State, 11-1 and 12-1.

In Game 1 the Blue Hose got three hits, two runs and two RBI from Chelsea Lyons, and four runs scored from Ansley Wilbanks (two hits). Alyssa Batastini got the vic-

tory, allowing three hits and striking out two.

Kiley Kross hit a solo homer and scored three times to key the Game 2 victory for PC, while Lyons had three hits and scored twice. Taylor Ward allowed two hits and struck out seven to get the victory.

PC splits with WCU (Wednesday): A day after sweeping two on the road, the Blue Hose split with visiting Western Carolina. PC lost Game 1, 4-3, but rebounded with a 3-1 victory in Game 2.

Scores

Baseball: Davidson 4, PC 1 (Tuesday)
 Women's tennis: PC 5, CSU 2 (Tuesday)

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